

Calamus Lutheran Parish  
Faith & Our Savior's Lutheran Churches  
P.O. Box 116  
Calamus, Iowa 52729-0116

**Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen.....262.914.9392**



**8:00 AM Sunday Worship**

Faith Lutheran Church  
505 Second Street, Calamus IA 52729



**9:25 AM Sunday School, Adult Study**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
2589 – 190<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Calamus, IA 52729



**10:30 AM Sunday Worship**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
2589 – 190<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Calamus IA 52729

**Church Office.....563.246.2622**

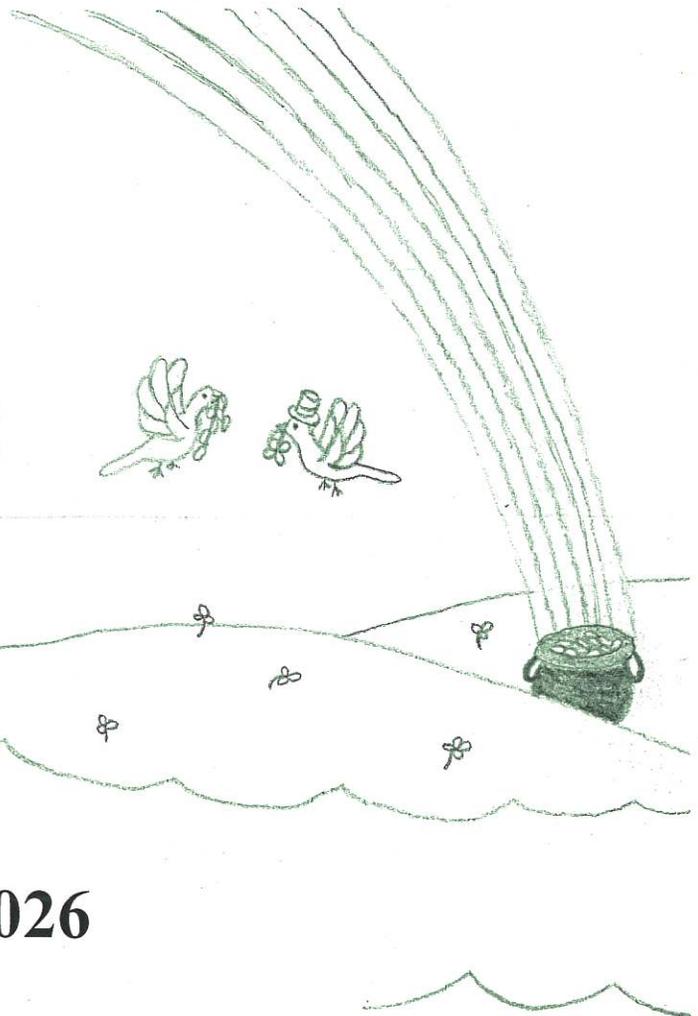
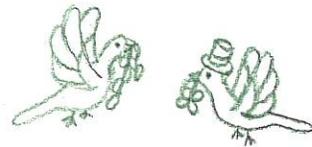
**Pastor's Office.....563.246.2558**

**Church email address.....clparish@fbcom.net**

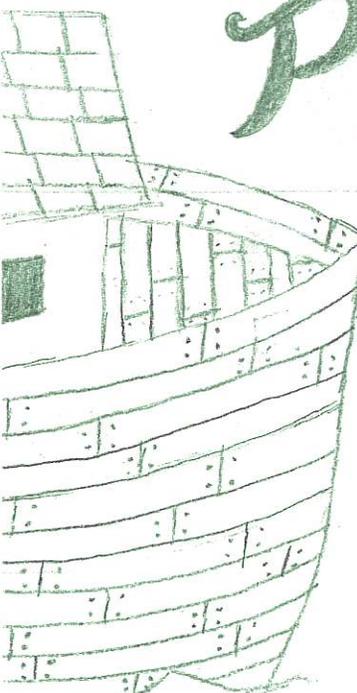
**Church Website.....www.clparish.org**

God Keeps  
His

Promises



**March 2026**





*Faith  
Lutheran Church  
505 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Calamus, IA 52729*

## **Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches (ELCA)**

### **Calamus Lutheran Parish**

P.O. Box 116, Calamus, IA 52729

Phone: 563-246-2622

Email: [clparish@fbcom.net](mailto:clparish@fbcom.net)

Website: [www.clparish.org](http://www.clparish.org)

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen



*Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church  
2589 190<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Calamus, IA 52729*

Volume 39

March 2026

Number 3

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### **Pastor's View**

Dear Siblings in Christ,

In recent sermons, I have been talking a lot about how as Christians, we lead with our identity as followers of Christ in all that we say and do and even think. I want to acknowledge again that this is hard, and it is needed more than ever. There are so many things that clamor for our attention and for us to identify ourselves with them. While these other things are not necessarily wrong or bad, when they become the identity that we lead from, our priorities become disorganized and out of sorts. All of us, myself included, regularly let identities that are not our shared identity in Christ move into first place. When that happens, we no longer operate from a position of God's love for the whole world in Jesus. We limit God's love.

For some examples...when we place our familial identity above our identity in Christ, we can lose sight of all of the families around us who are equally loved by God. When we place our partisan identity above our identity in Christ, we can start to believe that those who think differently are inherently evil. When we place our American identity above our identity in Christ, we forget we are a global community. In short, placing other identities ahead of our shared identity in Christ turns us inward and distorts our views of human made identities and boundaries, giving them priority over our shared identity in Christ. A shared identity that transcends the ties of blood, political parties, nationality, and so on and so forth.

One of the purposes behind the season of Lent is that it is a season of reflection, introspection, and inviting God to transform the areas of our lives that need transforming. I invite you to join me in reflecting on how to live life placing our Christian identity first. I invite you to pray with me for God to transform this in all Christians around the world, but especially in our own selves. There is so much noise that is clamoring for your identity, sometimes even trying to tell us, "if you're a Christian you'll...". But if it isn't about God's love for the world in Jesus that transcends every boundary, every language, every sin, every other identifying factor...then it isn't gospel. It's not leading from a Christian identity. To lead with a Christian identity is to center God's radical love for the world in Jesus. The whole world, without exception.

May Jesus the Christ who lives, and dies, and rises for all hold you close in this Lenten season of reflection, introspection, and transformation into the people God calls this whole world to be.

In Christ's Radical Love,

Pastor Leah



**February Cover Letter – Art Work**

*Thank you for the wonderful artwork for the February Cover Page!*



Ida Jane Nilsen, was baptized on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Ida Jane is the daughter of Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen and Pastor Stephen Nilsen.

**First Communion Class**

First Communion Class will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm at Faith.

Class is open to all ages. Especially encouraged for those who have never been. Please RSVP to Pastor, but anyone is welcome without RSVP.

**Naomi Circle Bible Study**

Wednesday, March 11th  
10:00 am at Marsha Witte's home



**Midweek Lenten Services**

**March 4<sup>th</sup>**

at Faith  
7:00 pm

**March 11<sup>th</sup>, March 18<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

at Our Savior's  
7:00 pm

A meal precedes each service at 6:15 pm



**Palm Sunday – March 29**

8:00 am Worship at Faith  
9:25 am Sunday School at Our Savior's  
10:30 am Worship at Our Savior's

**Maundy Thursday – April 2**

7:00 pm Worship at Faith

**Good Friday – April 3**

7:00 pm Worship at Our Savior's

**Easter Sunday – April 5**

8:00 am Worship at Faith  
9:00 am Breakfast at Faith  
9:45 am Easter Egg Hunt at Faith  
10:30 am Worship at Our Savior's

**40 Days of Giving**

Jars of peanut butter will be collected for the Carroll Assistance Center during the 40 days of Lent from Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup> through Easter Sunday on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The jars of peanut butter can be any brand and any size; smooth or chunky.



### **Youth Schedule for March**

#### **Sunday School**

9:25 a.m. at Our Savior's  
Classes for preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

#### **Confirmation**

NO classes in March.  
Confirmands will assist with  
midweek Lenten services.

#### **Bible Jam**

7:30 p.m. following midweek Lenten services  
Junior High and High School students are welcome  
to come for faith, fellowship, and fun!

### **Mission Quilts and Fabric Kits**

**The Mission Quilts and Fabric Kits project will end March 29<sup>th</sup>. Please leave items at Faith Lutheran Church.**

An information sheet which provides specific details is available at both churches. If you have questions, please contact:

Terri Bousselot  
[terribushlow@hotmail.com](mailto:terribushlow@hotmail.com)  
563-210-3269

### **Education Class is looking for Volunteers**

**Volunteer needed** to help with  
Friday's Bible School on  
May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Please reach out to Pastor Leah or the  
Education Committee members.

**Education Committee Members:** Cindy Burke,  
Eric Hoffmann, and John Baur.

### **FREE Texas Roadhouse Kids Meal Vouchers**

Nicole has FREE Texas Roadhouse Kids Meal  
Vouchers with a purchase of an entrée for  
Faith and Our Savior's Church members.

The vouchers are for the Davenport, Iowa location  
only and the vouchers are valid until 10/1/2026.

If you are interested in receiving FREE Texas  
Roadhouse Kids Meal Vouchers for your family,  
please contact Nicole in the church office.

### **Friday Bible School**

Friday Bible School – "Jonah and the Big Fish"  
Will be held on Friday, May 1, 2026 from  
1:30 pm to 5:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church.

Friday Bible School is for children in  
Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Registration forms are due to the church office by  
April 17, 2026

### **Meals for Youth attending Bible Jam**

Do you enjoy cooking or have a favorite meal you  
would like to share with our youth?  
We are looking for volunteers to help prepare meals  
on Wednesday nights.

Contact Heather Grau at 563-424-0507 for more  
information or to sign up.



## Christian Outreach Committee

The Christian Outreach Committee works to provide opportunities for the church to connect with the community.

These are the projects completed in 2025:

- \* Hats, coats, and gloves were collected and given to the Carroll Assistance Center
- \* Peanut butter was collected during Lent and given to the Carroll Assistance Center
- \* Food was provided for the meal following Bible School
- \* Freezer pops were given to Cal-Wheat students following their clean-up day
- \* Worked the concession stand at the school during ball season
- \* Provided coffee and donuts before worship in the park
- \* Hosted a pie and ice cream fellowship gathering following the Sunday evening Thanksgiving service
- \* Organized the Feeding the Children program

The committee will continue many of the same projects in 2026. New ideas and willing helpers are always welcome.

**The Christian Outreach Committee members are:** Amy Glover, Deb Tulley, and Mark Witte.

Please submit **April newsletter items** to the church office (clparish@fbcom.net) by Monday, April 16th.  
Thank you for your cooperation!

### 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering

**Location:** Minneapolis

**Dates of Gathering:** June 28<sup>th</sup>- July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2027

**Who can Attend:** Youth 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade in 2026

The ELCA Youth Gathering is an amazing opportunity to see and experience your youth faith community. Watch for upcoming announcements about informational meetings.

Let Heather or Pastor Leah know if you have any questions or are interested in attending!

To contact **Pastor Leah**, please use her cell phone number:  
**(262) 914-9392**



# February Meetings

## ~ ~ Our Savior's Council ~ ~

**Date:** February 12, 2026

**Present:** Dan, Jason, Deb, David

### Treasurer & Financial Secretary's Reports:

- Reports were distributed and reviewed. Had the soffit repaired on the old church.

### Old Business

- Renter
  - Reviewed application. Motion by Jason to deny the application and seconded by Deb. Motion carried unanimously.
- Bathroom Update
  - Estes came out for an estimate twice, will have several options to propose.
- Parsonage Painting
  - Completed

### New Business

- Lenten Meals
  - God Squad will take March 11. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, Council will do the main meal and invite congregation to bring sides. March 18<sup>th</sup> will be a general sign up.

## ~ ~ Faith Council ~ ~

**Date:** February 12, 2026

**Present:** John Baur, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton, Mark Witte, and Terri Boussetot

### Treasurer's Report:

- Report will be sent to council on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Financial Secretary's Report:

- Motion made by Boussetot to approve January 2026 report as printed. Christensen seconded. Motion carried.

### Old Business:

- Jim Hill will begin painting sanctuary on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Scaffolding may be needed by February 20<sup>th</sup>. Paint will be matched to the current color. The project may take 1 ½ weeks.
- Annual boiler inspection will be February 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Council will service the February 25<sup>th</sup> Lenten Meal. Each council member will bring a casserole. Dessert – Mitch, John, Luke. Bread – Mark, Milk – Terri.
- A potluck sign-up sheet for the March 4<sup>th</sup> Lenten meal will be placed outside the office door. Volunteers are requested.

### New Business

- The church office is cold. Witte installed interior window sheeting. The register line may be clogged, or the window may need caulking. Issue will be addressed as soon as possible.
- A maintenance plan for the boiler is being reviewed by Tulley.
- Property and Management will repair the gutter near the front door.
- Installation of the heating/cooling units in the sanctuary will be done with contractor is available.

### **\*\*Next Meetings Scheduled\*\***

#### **Joint Council**

Date: March 11, 2026

Time: 7:30 pm

Where: Our Savior's

#### **Education Committee Meeting**

Date: March 11, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm

Where: Our Savior's



# February Meetings

## ~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

**Date: February 12, 2026**

**Present: Our Saviors:** Jason Boussetot, Deb Detlefs, Dan Burke and David Burke.

**Faith:** John Baur, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton, Mark Witte, Terri Boussetot and Pastor Leah.

- Parishioner Petitions
  - No negative feedback from the first couple of weeks.
- Pastor will be gone March 1<sup>st</sup> & will have a sermon prepared for a congregate lead service.

### Pastor's Report

- Has returned to her usual duties.
- Pastor and Nicole submitted all required forms to the synod office.
- Bishop Current will preside at both February 15<sup>th</sup> Worship Services. Ida will be baptized at the 10:30 am service at Our Savior's.
- Confirmation students will lead Lenten services. They are excited about the interactive format they have chosen.

### Christian Outreach Committee

- Will not meet in March.
- Peanut butter will be gathered during Lent.

### God Squad: Pastor Leah

- Will serve an upcoming Lenten Meal. Date TBD.
- Will lead a worship service in April. April 12<sup>th</sup> or April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- God Squad is grateful for the suppers provided by volunteers for Confirmation/Bible Jam. Angel Tree

### Old Business:

- A summary of the Parish Retreat will be included in the March Newsletter.

### New Business:

- The participants at the Parish Retreat recommended the ELCA Good Gifts program be the recipient of the Noisy Offering. The focus is global. Motion by T. Boussetot to designate the funds to Good Gifts. J. Boussetot seconded. Motion carried.
- T. Boussetot will send the committee lists for both congregations to Nicole.

### Worship Committee

- Ash Wednesday
  - Reviewed bulletin.
  - Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7:00 pm at Faith. No meal will be served.
- Lenten Services
  - Reviewed format proposed from confirmation students and Pastor.
  - Will be doing a theme focused on the 5 senses.
  - Wednesday Lenten Services will include a 6:15 pm meal and 7:00 pm worship service.
  - February 25 and March 4 at Faith
  - March 11, 18, and 25 at Our Savior's.
- Lent
  - Pastor will be preaching on old testament texts again this year.



# February Meetings

## Education Committee

**Present:** Cindy Burke, John Baur, Pastor Leah

**Seeking new Committee Members:** Two volunteers are needed to serve on the Education Committee – one from Our Savior's and one from Faith. One does not need to teach Sunday School to participate. A monthly meeting is usually held on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Instruction Class
  - Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:30 at Faith, RSVP from Brent & Caleb Shelton and Levi Easterday. All ages are welcome.
- Sunday School
  - Offering will continue to follow same as noisy offering, which was selected to go to Good Gifts for 2026, visual to show what collected – will count jug once per month.
  - Last day of Sunday School is May 10<sup>th</sup>, lessons are already planned out.
- VBS
  - Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> with full afternoon (Friday is early out) for elementary. Jonah and the Big Fish from Spark Summer.
  - Possible bounce house as an idea to help with energy and as a draw for the kids? Is this a liability?
  - Cal-Wheat releases at 1:15 and buses will arrive around 1:30, officially start program at 2:00 to allow further school kids to arrive (Central Dewitt releases at 1:30).
  - Add snack suggestion to registration form (to help with allergies – nut or gluten)
  - Cal Wheat sends fliers out monthly, and we will have the VBS advertised in the monthly newsletter. Registrations due about 2 weeks ahead, roughly April 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Staff meeting for final plans with count of registrations on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> (also move Ed Committee to that date).
  - Volunteers: John agreed to help, Pastor Bible Study, need to confirm with others. A volunteer meeting will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- By next meeting: Review Jonah materials from Spark Summer, next time work out timeline and incorporate what we like and what is doable.

## **MINSTERS for March 2026**

If you cannot do your task on the day assigned, it is your responsibility to trade with someone or to find your own substitute and notify the church office of the change.

### **FEEDING THE CHILDREN: Shelley Witt-Gentile**

Preparing and delivering twelve bags of food to Cal-Wheat Elementary on Friday mornings.

#### **FAITH CHURCH**

##### **Ushers:**

Yale Christensen  
Mitch Christensen

##### **Acolyte:**

Kinnick Christensen

##### **Communion Assistant:**

Yale Christensen

##### **Lectors:**

March 1: Terri Boussetot  
March 8: Yale Christensen  
March 15: Brian Tulley  
March 22: Heather Whitman  
March: 29: Alan Lee

##### **Altar Ministry:**

Deb & Brian Tulley

#### **OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH**

**Usher:** Dan Burke

##### **Acolyte:**

William Burke

##### **Communion Assistant:**

Deb Detlefs

##### **Lector:**

March 1: David Burke  
March 8: Marcia Edens  
March 15: Deb Detlefs  
March 22: Neil Holmquist  
March: 29: Cindy Burke

##### **Cleaner:**

Jason Boussetot

# March 2026 Calamus Lutheran Parish

**NOTE:** Check the website [www.clp parish.org](http://www.clp parish.org) for more information.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OS = Our Savior's Church F = Faith Church						
<b>1 Second Sunday of Lent</b> 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School – OS 10:30 Worship – OS  <b>Pastor Leah out of the office.</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>Pastor Leah out of the office.</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>First Communion Class</b> 5:30 pm at Faith	<b>4</b>  <b>Meal</b> 6:15 pm at Faith <b>Worship</b> 7:00 pm at Faith <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:30 pm at Faith	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Third Sunday of Lent</b> 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School – OS 10:30 Worship – OS  <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>“Meet and Eat”</b> Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	<b>11 Naomi Circle</b> 10:00 am Marsha Witte's home <b>Education Committee</b> 6:00 pm at Our Savior's <b>Meal</b> 6:15 pm at Our Savior's <b>Worship</b> 7:00 pm at Our Savior's <b>Bible Jam &amp; Joint Council</b> 7:30 pm at Our Savior's	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Noisy Offering</b> 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School – OS 10:30 Worship – OS	<b>16</b>  <b>April newsletter items are due.</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>Meal</b> 6:15 pm at Our Savior's <b>Worship</b> 7:00 pm at Our Savior's <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:30 pm at Our Savior's	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22 Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School – OS 10:30 Worship – OS  ----- <b>29 Palm Sunday</b> 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School – OS 10:30 Worship – OS	<b>23</b>  ----- <b>30</b>	<b>24</b>  ----- <b>31</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Meal</b> 6:15 pm at Our Savior's <b>Worship</b> 7:00 pm at Our Savior's <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:30 pm at Our Savior's	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

**Friday Bible School – “Jonah and the Big Fish”**  
**Faith Lutheran Church, 505 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Calamus (563) 246-2622**  
**1:30 to 5:00 on May 1, 2026**  
**For children in Kindergarten through Grade 5**

You may make arrangements with the school to have children ride the bus to the church.  
In order to make plans for snacks and supplies, this registration must be turned in to the church office or school office by **April 17, 2026**. You may use one form for a family.  
\* It is important to have permission and emergency contact information.

**The registration form must be on file for all the children attending Bible School.**

CUT -----

**2026 Bible School Registration Form**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ School grade just completing \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergies or other medical conditions** \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ School grade just completing \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergies or other medical conditions** \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ School grade just completing \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergies or other medical conditions** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parental Permission**

**Parent(s) name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

\*Signature of a Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Information**

**In case of emergency**, there should be someone to contact from 1:30 to 5:00 who can respond immediately.

\*Contact \_\_\_\_\_ \*Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child \_\_\_\_\_